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M E D I C A L.

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For the MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL REGISTER.

*A certain vulgar Opinion controverted ; or,  
Cotton Wool, is it poisonous or not poisonous to a Sore ? that is the  
Question.*

The circumstance of having sewed up a wound with cotton yarn, there being no silk at hand, which, by certain *knowing ones* was pronounced to be bad practice, was what gave occasion to the following observations. They were, indeed, calculated to this particular circumstance, and under a certain latitude ; but, like new made almanacks, it is believed they will serve for many other places without any sensible variation.

IT is said that COTTON is poisonous to a fore. Indeed ! but who said so ? Why, it is an observation of my grandmother ; she had it of an aunt, who received it from her great-grandfather, to whom it had descended in the line of his ancestors through seventeen generations. It was first introduced into the family by an old female acquaintance ; she had it of an *unmarried elderly lady*, living in the neighborhood, who was always noted for being very ready and willing among the sick. This woman learned it of an *Itinerant* doctor, of whom she occasionally took medicines, who, as it is reported, had it of an Indian squaw, and she——*brought it into the world with her ! !*

To doubt the *propriety* of an opinion so venerable for its antiquity, may, undoubtedly, be matter of astonishment. The present, however, is an age of inquiry, and of free investigation : and however much I may abhor tyrants and kingly power, yet, in my opinion, there is no slavery more ignominious than that



of the mind. I hope, therefore, I shall be permitted to proceed in this inquiry ; and I flatter myself, that in the end I shall be able to make it appear, that this opinion is tyrannical and oppressive ; that it is an imposition upon the human understanding ; that it is fraught with great absurdity, and sometimes with mischief.

In doing this, I shall rest the burden of my argument principally upon *one question*. It will, perhaps, be new to some of you ; indeed, *many*, I presume, never thought of it before. It is this—*What REASON is there for supposing Cotton to be poisonous to a sore ?*

Does this appear from any investigation which has ever been made of its qualities ? Do you know it from any *positive effects* of this nature, which have ever fallen under your OWN observation ? Can you discover it by tasting, by smelling, by decoction, or by tincture ? What product do you gain from it by distillation ? Scattered on bread and butter, did you ever know it answer any purpose in *destroying RATS ?*

Now, professing my high consideration and most dutiful respect for all the grandmothers, great-grandmothers, *unmarried elderly women*, &c. who either live or have lived, together with my implicit faith and most cordial belief in all their opinions, maxims, and common sayings, which they have ever taught and believed, or would have believed, many of them, had they lived to a more advanced age, except so much as relates to *cotton wool*, which being a dry, insipid, inodorous substance, perfectly destitute of any medicinal quality hitherto discovered or known, I do therefore proclaim my dissent to the idea of its being *poisonous to a wound*.

But perhaps in all this, some may suppose I am no more than *jesting* ; my intention, however, is to be *serious*, and I wish to be thought so. I consider it one of the greatest evils to medical science and medical men, that there are so many persons, who, without experience and without knowledge, are so ready to approve or condemn things in a physician of which they know nothing. I am not one of those, however, who wish to shroud themselves in darkness on medical subjects ; nor do I wish to conceal the principles of my own practice. Never would I disguise a medicine, could I know beforehand that my patient and my patient's friends were free to exercise a natural share of common sense. And as I would not like again, and on a similar occasion, to meet with so bold an interference in my professional duties, I will now attempt a plain illustration of the principles which governed my choice of cotton yarn in preference to linen, in this instance of sewing up a



wound. And first, every person, by feeling on a cotton and then on a linen rag, will discover a remarkable difference; the linen rag is exceedingly smooth and even to the touch, whereas the cotton one feels more rough and irritating. Secondly, the same person, if he will take the trouble to examine a *thread* made of cotton and another made of flax, will find the linen thread remarkably *hard*, so that by forcibly drawing it against the flesh, it may be made to cut through the skin; on the other hand, he will find the cotton thread to possess a great degree of softness, so as to be utterly incapable of any such effect. Whence this conclusion follows—that, in case of sores, where there is an extent or surface of raw flesh, and applications are made to it with an intention that it should heal over, in such cases a *linen rag* is preferable, on account of its *smoothness* being less subject to chafe and irritate the sore; where parts have been cut or divided by some sharp cutting instrument, and the intention is to retain by a ligature or stitches the divided parts together, in order that the sides of the wound may unite, in such cases *cotton yarn* is preferable on account of its *softness*, being less subject to cut and tear the flesh. A greater or a less degree of swelling, as most people must know, succeeds to every wound; as the swelling proceeds and increases, the wound inclines to gape open; in this state, the lips or edges of the wound having been previously sewed together, the skin is drawn forcibly and hard against the stitches or threads. If then the thread used in taking these stitches be of a hard, wirey nature, the skin, in that case, is exceedingly apt to be cut and torn, in consequence of which the wound gapes open, the cure is delayed, and the intention of the surgeon is defeated.

Thus have I attempted a brief illustration of this subject, and I submit it to the common understanding and apprehension of every one, if what I have said be not the truth. No more, then, of the *poison of cotton to sores*, and a thousand other things, which thwart the rational purposes and views of the physician.

Mankind are too much given to prejudice; they suck in opinions like their mother's milk, and trouble themselves no more with a consideration of their fitness, than the unthinking infant does of the food by which it is nourished or the air it breathes. Painful must it be to every mind of reflection, in certain cases, to see the credulity of human nature. Understanding is insulted, reason debased, and common sense kicked out of doors. While we possess the faculties of intelligence, let us exercise them so as to do honor to ourselves and justice to the whole human race.

*Massachusetts, March 4, 1807.*

OBSERVATOR.



*Of Cold Water, as a Remedy in the Scarlet Fever and Ulcerated Sore Throat.*

THIS is that disease, which, with the greater proportion of people, is usually known by the name of *Rash*, *Canker Rash*, or *Throat Distemper*; all which, instead of being so many different diseases, as they are usually apprehended to be, are only different species of one and the same disease.\*

Our business at this time, is to exhibit some of the examples and the success of the use of cold water, by affusion, in this oftentimes violent, most distressing, and very fatal disease. The bare mention of *cold water*, as a remedy in fever and other diseases, will undoubtedly bring to the recollection of the reader the name of Dr. CURRIE, who has done so much to establish a rational theory on this subject, and who at this moment is receiving the gratitude of thousands in Europe, as the rich reward of his labor and patience.

We have already, in a former number of this work,† given a brief sketch of the Doctor's practice, with this remedy, in nervous fever, together with our motives for doing it. We shall now do the same, as it respects the disease under consideration.

"Upon the attack of this disease, after some shivering and other symptoms of incipient fever, in an hour or two the heat begins to return, and speedily mounts up far beyond the temperature of health. It is on the first appearance of this high temperature, that it is necessary to act with vigor. On our conduct at this critical season, the patient's life often depends.

"The plan that I follow," observes the Doctor, "if called in at this early period, is, to strip the patient and dash four or five gallons of" cold water "over his naked body. This produces its usual cooling effects; but these are less permanent than in typhus. In one or two hours afterwards, the heat is often found, on examination, as great as before; the affusion is therefore again and again repeated, as the obstinacy of the heat may indicate. It is sometimes necessary to use it ten or twelve times in twenty-four hours. At the end of this time, but commonly earlier, the force of the fever is broken; and a few tepid affusions, at longer intervals, are sufficient to subdue it entirely. . . . . A disposition to rest and sleep follows this bold arrestation of the fever.

\* "Experience decides, that the simple Scarlet Fever, the *Scarlatina Anginosa*, the *Scarlatina* (or *Angina*) *Maligna*, and the *Scarlet Ulcerated Sore Throat*, without the efflorescence on the skin, are merely varieties of one disease." See Dr. Willan's Third Pamphlet on Cutaneous Diseases, page 281; a very rare and valuable work.



“In cases where, from the timidity of parents or the apprehensions of those with whom we are called to consult, this decisive practice cannot be fully adopted, the tepid affusion may be had recourse to, with very considerable but inferior effect. It will not arrest the disease, unless very slight, but it will moderate its violence by diminishing the heat.”

The following is an example of the Doctor's practice, in the cases of two of his own children, one five and the other three years of age, in the summer of 1801. The Doctor's family was at that time in the country.

“On the morning of the 15th of August,” the Doctor observes, “a message was sent me, that the eldest of the two had been restless and uneasy in the night, with feverish chills, and pain in his head and back. I saw him in seven hours from the first of these chills; he was then becoming hot, and had vomited up his tea; his face and neck were beginning to flush. . . . . The youngest brother followed him step by step, at the distance of about seven hours. The heat of the eldest soon raised the mercury of the thermometer to  $106^{\circ}$ ,  $107^{\circ}$ , and  $108^{\circ}$ , [ $98^{\circ}$  is about the usual temperature of health] and in both the symptoms prognosticated a violent disease. . . . . I shut myself up with these boys entirely; and with plenty of pump water and a pocket thermometer, I prepared, not without anxiety, to combat this formidable disease. . . . . As soon as the sensation of heat was steady in my oldest boy, I stripped him naked, and poured four gallons of water over him of the temperature of  $64^{\circ}$ . The usual good effects immediately appeared, but at the end of two hours he was as hot as ever; the remedy was again applied, and repeated as the return of heat indicated. By the time the eldest was ready for his third affusion, the youngest was ready for his first. The heat rose in the eldest to  $109^{\circ}$ , in the youngest to  $108^{\circ}$ , and the pulse in each was upwards of 150. In thirty-two hours the first had the affusion fourteen times; eight times cold, twice cool, and four times tepid. Twelve affusions sufficed in the case of the youngest, of which seven were cold. The fever was in both completely subdued.”

Such is the Doctor's practice in his own family. Hence, and from many other facts, examples, and cases, presented in his “*Medical Reports*,” it appears, that *cold water*, JUDICIOUSLY applied, will, under certain circumstances, extinguish *fever* no less than fire.

We have been induced to take this view of the subject, in consequence of a letter from a much respected friend, who is express in recommendation of this practice, having seen the success of it in the town where he lives. We shall conclude with an extract from this gentleman's letter.



*Extract of a private Letter from a Gentleman of great respectability to the Editor, dated \* \* \* \*, September 18, 1806.*

As the Throat Distemper (as it is called in this country) is a very destructive malady, I was surprised to find, in the essay on the *Angina Maligna*, published in your fourth number,\* that no mention was made of the external use of cold water for its cure, or even for its relief. Dr. Currie, in the third edition of his "*Medical Reports*," most expressly extols its use in this disease; in consequence of the success which has attended the employment of it by himself and by professor Gregory, each in the case of *several of his own children*; confirmed by a considerable variety of instances in the practice of himself and others. The remedy has been applied in this town without any inconvenience; but the heat of the skin has not been sufficient to justify its repetition, unless in one case, when cold water was thrown over a child five times in twenty-four hours, with the happiest result, as it terminated in a perfect cure. It is said also, that some one in the interior of the country has had similar good fortune, in repeated instances.

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## AGRICULTURAL.

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*For the MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL REGISTER.*

*Of Clover, and its great Importance in Agriculture.*

CLOVER is univesally known as being an excellent grass; but how much farmers have it in their power to improve their farms by means of this fertilizing plant, is not generally known in these New England States.

"The seed of clover was first brought to England from Brabant in Flanders, soon after the conclusion of the horrible civil wars, occasioned by the rival claims of the houses of York and Lancaster; and the circumstance of its being brought originally from Flanders, has given it the name of *Flanders grass*. The introduction and cultivation of this grass in England, so exceedingly altered and improved the face of the country, in a very few years, that it was thought to have indemnified the nation, in point of property, for the ravages and wastes of the [then] late wars.



“The white clover makes the best of pasture. It nourishes and fattens animals beyond any other grass. It gives a rich and delicious flavor to mutton, and to the milk of cows, and produces butter and cheese of the highest excellence.—The red clover, while it produces the best hay for horses, at the same time, enriches the ground. As it is tap-rooted, like the carrot, it draws a portion of its nourishment from a depth below the surface, to which the roots of most other plants do not extend; and after the sward is turned over by the plough, and the roots of this clover are dissolved, they make a fine manure, and in a measure prepare the ground for wheat, or almost any other crop.”

“One of the cheapest and most obvious improvements,” observes a writer of the middle States, “and to which England is more indebted than to any other, is the sowing of grass seeds, and particularly *clover*, and putting in their wheat upon a clover lay instead of an expensive fallow.” The practice is as follows: The clover field, having been mowed or fed off, is generally turned up the *second year* of its having been laid down to grass. The ploughing takes place a little before the time of sowing the wheat. A second ploughing would be of material injury, as is abundantly proved by experiment. About eighteen or twenty days from the time of ploughing, the weather and other circumstances being favorable, the roots of the clover will have begun to rot. This is the exact time to put in the wheat. The land is previously harrowed in a direction *with the furrows*, the wheat sown and harrowed in, without so much, if possible, as turning up or moving from its bed a single furrow. This is what is called sowing or putting in wheat *upon a clover lay*, and is considered one of the greatest improvements in modern agriculture. Even in the middle States, in pursuance of this practice, together with the use of gypsum, the face of the country, in many places, has been entirely renovated, and what before was a barren field is now converted to a fruitful soil.

There are many tracts of pine land in these New England States, which, generally, are never seeded with grass, and which it is believed might be improved much in the same way, excepting perhaps the substituting of rye for wheat. I have myself seen as fine clover growing on some of these pine lands, as upon any lands whatever, after they had been brought into a proper state of fertilization. In the middle States, I believe about one half of the clover seed intended to be put in, is sowed at the time of sowing the wheat; the other half is reserved and sowed about the time of the going off of the snow in the spring. In this way they are rarely if ever disappointed, and generally take one cutting of grass some time after taking off the wheat.

A FRIEND TO IMPROVEMENTS.



*A Comparison between the Advantages and Disadvantages of Agriculture in Britain and in America.* By ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON, Esq.

THE first advantage England possesses, consists in her early spring; this enables the farmer to commence his work sooner than he can in this country: to this cause it is owing, that such crops as require early sowing on a well prepared fallow, succeed better in Britain than here. Barley, for instance, requires four good spring ploughings, and yet should be put in by the first of May; this cannot be done here, except upon very light lands, our clays being hardly fit to plough before May; but light land will not produce good barley without manure. In England it may be raised to advantage on strong loams, and even on clay. It is for this reason that barley is nearly as cheap in England as here, though every other grain is nearly sixty per cent. dearer than in America. The same reasoning applies to beans, which are unproductive in England, unless sown in February and March, which is hardly possible here on strong clays, the soil these require. Turnips cannot be raised in our climate to advantage, as a food for cattle; the season in which they are sown being usually very dry, and the plants liable to be destroyed by the fly.

Great Britain has also some advantage over us in the shortness of the winter, but much less than is generally imagined. Their autumn is cold and wet; and though there is some apparent verdure, yet the vegetation is so slow, as to render it usual for good farmers to house their cattle by the first of November, rather than suffer them to poach their fields, in gleaning a scanty subsistence from them; nor do they turn them to pasture till late in April.

These, I believe, are all the advantages that the British farmers fairly claim over us. Let us now examine those we exclusively possess. The noblest of these is the *maize*, or Indian corn [which does not grow in England.] Neither the beans\* or turnips\* of Britain can be compared with this plant. First, it need not be planted till the last of May, so that the farmer is never hurried by it with his spring work. Secondly, it is cultivated with a plough or horse-hoe; and as the plants are large, and placed at five feet distance, there is ample room for this; and though it is also usual to hand hoe, yet, as this is done after the ground is loosened by the plough, and when the plant is a foot high, and then only just about the stem, it is easier to hoe ten acres of this than one of the turnips or beans. Thirdly, it

\* Both these (beans and turnips) are important crops in England, for the feeding of horses, cattle, and sheep.—E.



defies the drought, and never fails to make ample returns to the husbandman that cultivates it with diligence; forty bushels an acre being a common yield when well tended, and from sixty to seventy in a good soil and in the best state of cultivation. The grain furnishes a palatable and nutritious food for man, and is greatly superior to any other species for farm stock. And while bean-haulm is of little value, the tops and blades of maize are not inferior, if gathered in season, to the best hay; and as this crop is easily and necessarily kept clean, it is the best of all fallow crops.

The want of turnips in this country, may be amply compensated by carrots, which may be raised at less expense here than in Britain, because we have much fewer weeds, which are the greatest enemies to that root; by cabbages and potatoes, which grow well here; and by pumpkins, which are raised in very considerable quantities in our Indian corn fields, without any other expense than that of dropping a few seeds in the hills and carting the crop. Nor can I help recommending them as a rich and nutritious food, that will save two month's hay, if used in the beginning of winter, and afford milk and butter equal in quantity and quality to the finest pasture.

These legumines would not be so much neglected here as they generally are, were it not that hay is made in this country at half the expense that it requires in the moist climates of Britain. Vegetation there is extremely slow; their spring is nearly one month earlier than ours; yet, though their wheat begins to grow in March, it is not reaped till late in August; ours is cut six weeks earlier, though it does not begin to vegetate till late in April; so that it takes five and one half months in Britain, to perfect a crop which is performed here in little better than three. The same causes influence the growth of grafs. In soils, therefore, of equal quality, much less will grow in a given time in Britain than in America, as I infer from the general average of their clover and natural grafs in not exceeding ours, though they are longer in a growing state. It is true, that the moisture of the climate, and mild winters, give a great verdure to their fields at some seasons; but this is only an apparent advantage, which deceives superficial observers, while it is attended with real inconveniences; first, the grafs itself is by that circumstance rendered less nutritious, as is well known by every farmer; secondly, while the hay is lighter, it is got in at more expense than ours, which is made at the driest season of the year. In our crops of grain we enjoy similar advantages; their harvests are frequently wet, while nine years in ten ours is got in without the least obstruction from rain. The produce would also, I am well satisfied, be greater here than in England, on highly cultivated soils, since it is well known



that the strength of the straw depends upon the dryness of the season. In a moist climate, therefore, without sufficient sun to harden the straw, heavy crops must be very often injured by lodging, especially if we take into consideration, that high winds are much more usual in Great Britain than here. Blight and mildew are effects of a moist climate. These are seldom and partially known in this country, prevailing only in particular districts, in extraordinary seasons. In Britain it often happens, that wet weather, when the wheat is in blossom, affects all the wheat in the kingdom, many parts of which, on this account, do not pretend to raise it.

If vegetation is slower in Britain than here, and if the grass is also less nutritious, it must follow, that with the same attention to stock our pastures with the best grass, and to keep the cattle out of them at improper seasons, a larger stock may be maintained on the same quantity of ground in this country than in England; and thus the difference in the length of our winter be amply compensated. This observation leads me to a circumstance in British husbandry, which might be advantageously practised by us. Many of their farmers sow rye, for the use of their sheep and lambs, in the spring. In order to do this, they must be at the expense of a fallow; and as their rye grows two-fifths slower than ours, it must follow, that they can only keep three sheep where we may have five. If, therefore, this practice is advantageous in England, it would be much more so in America, to sow our corn fields with rye, to feed off with sheep in the spring, not only because of the additional numbers we can keep, but because we are more pinched for sheep-food in the spring; besides that, the rye that costs the British farmer a complete fallow, costs us nothing but the seed, if sown among the corn when it is topped. As five sheep will leave more manure than three, the rye field so fed down, will be left in better order here than it would be in England.

In the healthfulness of our stock, we have great advantages over Britain. Among our black cattle I have been told that some disorders prevail, though they are so extremely rare, that in twenty years since I commenced farming, I do not recollect to have lost one creature, unless it were by some accidental hurt; nor have I known any others to die among my neighbors, except from the same cause, or bad keeping in the spring; and while the rot sweeps away whole flocks of sheep in Britain, it is a disorder entirely unknown in this country.

All these natural advantages being in favor of the American farmer, I shall be asked how it happens that the lands in Britain are more productive? The answer is, More labor is expended upon less land there; and the product is always in proportion to the labor, the soil, and the climate.



## MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

For the MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL REGISTER.

*Of Bots, and the proper Treatment of Horses affected by them.*

By Dr. ROWLAND GREEN.

DR. ADAMS,

WHEN I forwarded the communication respecting the horse bee, I then thought never to write one syllable again on the subject. Since that time, I have been requested, by some of your subscribers, to reply to some pieces, which have appeared in the Register, on the same subject; and having a propensity to aid the cause of inquiry, I have attempted it. The gentlemen who have communicated on the subject are thanked, and I hope will be excited to further investigation.

In addition to what was said in Register No. 4, respecting the removal of bots from the horse's stomach, it may not be improper to observe, that it is difficult to physic a horse effectually, that a larger quantity is required than is generally thought necessary, and that calomel, given in quantities of half an ounce, seldom has any effect on bots, except in their infant state, and even then it is to be doubted whether it will be generally effectual. Horses do not commonly manifest symptoms of bots, until the insects have considerably advanced towards their full growth, and then physic, however useful in removing inflammation, will have little effect in removing them from the stomach.

With respect to *blood-letting*, it is easily performed with a phlebotomy in the jugular veins. Bleeding in the mouth is improper, as the quantity taken cannot be known. When a horse is diseased with bots, large bleedings are necessary, as small losses of blood answer no valuable purpose. We ought not to suppose that blood-letting is not a proper remedy, because it does not always cure: it ought to be the first *resort*, and not the last, when every prescription is unavailing. Time and opportunity are lost, by those who tamper with a sick horse, day after day, tormenting him with frequent drenches, with a view to remove the insects from the stomach, until the poor animal sinks irrecoverably, either from the pressure of disease, or the improper prescriptions, or both. About the 10th of March, 1806, a small horse was seized with the symptoms of bots.



The symptoms, especially the cough, increased rapidly to the 15th, at which time six pints of blood was taken from one of the jugular veins: this moderated the symptoms; but it was thought proper to take more blood, and on the 17th six pints more was taken, and seemed to perfect the cure. The horse was fit for common labor in a few days, and no symptom of disease remained. The inflammatory affection of the lungs was removed, and not the bots, which were the cause of that affection. However, as the bots were not removed, but continued to prey upon the stomach, all the symptoms were liable to recur again, so long as the insects remained there, and continued to act. And this took place: for towards the end of May, the symptoms again appeared, and increased to the 2d of June, when seven pints of blood was taken, on which all the symptoms disappeared, and have never since occurred; neither was it greatly to be expected from the same crop of insects, for in the months of June and July they pass off, and seek an asylum in the earth.

Some suppose that no prescription is of any use, except it removes the insects; but let those gentlemen reflect, how often they have seen children laboring under inflammatory symptoms, caused as they say (and perhaps rightly) by worms; they have administered antiphlogistics, and the patients have recovered, without the loss of a single worm. It is a fact, that many complaints, arising from irritation, may be mitigated, and the patients made comfortable, when the cause of that irritation cannot be immediately removed.

In making experiments and observations, we "ought to be divested of all partiality, have no favorite hypothesis to support, and to have no view but the discovery of truth." "Superficial observations are apt to lead into error, and often contribute to raise the reputation of foolish prescriptions."

In Register No. 6, salt is mentioned as a preventive means, also certain preparations of mercury. From a number of experiments, it appears, that the frequent or daily application of strong brine to the parts where the bee places her eggs, is no bar to prevent her object, neither will it injure the eggs. September 6, 1806, immersed a number of eggs in strong brine, and after twenty-four hours had elapsed they were taken out, and on the 16th were examined, and found to contain the insects in good health. Salt is undoubtedly good for a horse, but that it is useful to prevent bots from injuring him is not probable. The daily application of mercurial ointment, so powerful in destroying vermin, will not entirely prevent the bee from her design, yet it may destroy the eggs; but in this way, it



would be expensive as well as disagreeable, and fall far short of that simple and easy plan of scraping them off with a knife.\* Mercury is not so effectual in destroying bots as is generally thought. September 16, 1806, immersed a number of small bots, with one which was full grown, in a strong solution of corrosive sublimate; the small bots died in about sixty minutes, but the full grown one was taken out six hours after its immersion apparently unhurt.

In Register No. 10, alum water is recommended to be "effectual to detach bots from the coats of the horse's stomach," &c. "But (says the writer) when the bots have worked through the coats of the stomach, he cannot be cured with alum water; but if it be given before the bots have worked holes through the coats of the stomach, the horse soon recovers." Mr. Harrington speaks with great confidence in alum water; he says, "it never has failed with him." Others, perhaps, have spoken with as much confidence in rum, tobacco, aloes, &c. &c. Some time since experiments were made on bots with alum, but the minutes are lost, and all that is recollected is, that the result was such as gave no confidence in it.—A gentleman in this vicinity, in December last, had a horse seized with symptoms of bots, and was directed to try Mr. Harrington's alum process, which he did with exactness, and the horse died the following night. On opening the stomach, &c. numerous small bots appeared, but the coats of the stomach were not perforated, and in fact, the stomach was less injured than is usually the case. The bots were small, and had "worked" no "holes" in the stomach; but had produced much irritation. The lungs were affected as usual. If alum could have any effect on bots, surely this was a favorable case: the bots were young, small, and lay in a situation favorable to be acted upon by it; but the bots kept their hold; the alum did not detach them from the stomach. Can alum be useful in cases where the lungs are affected with inflammation and its consequences? If the affection of the lungs had been removed, it is highly probable that the horse would not have died. It is not here suggested, that alum was the cause of the horse's death, but that it is an improper prescription to cure a horse, when inflammation, &c. seems to be the immediate cause of death.

Mr. Harrington further says, that the smaller species of horse bee "produces only the worms." If this is true, the worms must produce the bee. Experiment and observation prove otherwise. A bee of the smaller species was known to proceed

\* See page 58.



from a bot, which was secured in a glass vessel, while in its chrysalis state.

We are informed, that in some cases the coats of the stomach are perforated by the insects; and if our information is correct, in such cases there can be no remedy. But some may suppose that such cases are incompatible with life—that the animal dies before such destruction of the stomach can take place; however, the presumption is, that such cases are seldom, and ought not to dissuade us from using proper means to preserve the life of that useful and noble animal. The practice of forcing into the stomach inflammatory articles, as rum, &c. and even boiling water, (which has been done) approximates to savage barbarity, without answering one valuable purpose.

Upon a moderate calculation, there dies annually 200 horses, in the State of Massachusetts, by means of bots; at the moderate price of 50 dollars each, the total amount of loss will be 10,000 dollars: certainly worth preserving. The preventive means (see page 58) are easy and certain; but when neglected, and disease has taken place, the remedy is doubtful.

The writer of this paper was informed by an observing man, who is in a line of seeing horses diseased with bots, that “he had tried repeatedly, every method generally proposed, to detach bots from the stomach, and had witnessed their inefficacy;” that “he had frequently noticed, that horses diseased with bots had a feverish heat;” and that, “in his opinion, bleeding largely, in the first stages of the disease, is the only known remedy, and by which he had frequently succeeded.”

R. GREEN, JUN.

Mansfield, February 3, 1807.

*Result of Meteorological and other Observations, for February, 1807; made at Deerfield, Warwick, Portsmouth, Hartford, and Boston.*

| Feb. 1807. | Mean degs.<br>at sun-rise. | Mean degs.<br>at 2 P. M. | Mean degree<br>of the month. | Greatest heat<br>in the month. | Least heat in<br>the month. | Prevailing<br>winds. | Marriages. | Births. | Deaths. |
|------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------|---------|---------|
| Deerfield  | 17½                        | 31½                      | 24½                          | 13 day, 50°                    | 9 day, 14°                  | N. W.                |            |         | 1       |
| Warwick    | 14                         | 27½                      | 20¾                          | 12 44                          | 8 16                        | N. W.                | 1          | 5       | 2       |
| Portsmouth | 21                         | 30¾                      | 25¾                          | 14 48                          | 8 3                         | N. W.                |            |         |         |
| Hartford   | 16½                        | 33½                      | 25½                          | 12 49                          | 9 8                         | N. W.                |            |         |         |
| Boston     | 21                         | 31½                      | 26½                          | 12, 14, 15 44                  | 8, 9 1                      | N. W.                |            |         |         |



## WEATHER.

|                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 — Sund. rain last night ; a great freshet ; snow, fair ; rivers broke up ; ice 2 feet thick | 15 — Sund. rain continued ; a remarkable freshet ; a great destruction of mills, bridges, &c. fair P. M. violent winds in the night |
| 2 — a little snow, fair                                                                       |                                                                                                                                     |
| 3* } fair                                                                                     | 16* } fair and                                                                                                                      |
| 4* } and                                                                                      | 17* } cold                                                                                                                          |
| 5* } cold                                                                                     | 18 — snow, rain ; a rainy night                                                                                                     |
| 6* — snow                                                                                     | 19 } fair,                                                                                                                          |
| 7* } fair                                                                                     | 20* }                                                                                                                               |
| 8* } Sund. and                                                                                | 21* } brisk                                                                                                                         |
| 9* } cold                                                                                     | 22 } Sund. Full Moon.                                                                                                               |
| 10 } hazy weather,                                                                            | 23 } winds                                                                                                                          |
| 11 } clouds                                                                                   | 24 — cloudy, night snow, 4 to 8 in.                                                                                                 |
| 12 } and some                                                                                 | 25 }                                                                                                                                |
| 13 } sunshine                                                                                 | 26 } fair                                                                                                                           |
| 14 — violent rain all day and night                                                           | 27 }                                                                                                                                |
|                                                                                               | 28 — overcast                                                                                                                       |

New Moon.

Full Moon.

Depth of water fallen in rain, *Warwick*, 5.75 inches ; snow, 13 inches.

*Warwick, February 28, 1807.*

This month has been cold ; some very heavy rains, and streams of water uncommonly high ; snow mostly dissolved and formed into solid ice ; sleighing tolerably good the greatest part of the month. Hay scarce.

Healthy except bad colds, which are met with more or less in almost every family. W. C.

*Hartford, February 28, 1807.*

Mean degree of the three winter months, 25.72. The winter unusually cold : not so much snow as some years, but steady cold.—Healthy in Hartford.

*Deerfield, February 28, 1807.*

We have had several violent rains this month, and as the ground was covered with ice, very little water penetrated the earth, but ran into the rivers and produced sudden freshets ; by the enormous piles of ice brought down by these, much damage has been sustained, in this and some of the adjacent towns, in the destruction of mill-dams, bridges, &c. which have been swept off. It is believed that the damage done throughout New England, is greater than that of any year since the settlement of the country. The ground is still covered with ice, but very little snow remains.

The month has been as healthy as usual.

EP. HOYT.

\* Days of continued frost, according to observations made at *Boston* ; or, days on which the range of the thermometer, through the whole twenty-four hours, was below 32°, or the freezing point.



## N O T E S.

### *To AGENTS for the Register.*

THE mails going out from Boston are generally crowded or full, so that the Register, for all those places where it is wished, cannot be received at the post-office in this town, on the day of publication. Many of our Agents, who have been in the habit of receiving their Registers by mail, could, perhaps, as conveniently receive them by stage, or by the coasters, or, where they have frequent opportunities of sending into town, by private persons. In either of these, or any such way, which they could in future adopt, and would be so good as to order, it would oblige us; as, so doing, it would make room, and afford us a better opportunity of accommodating those who are in situations to receive the Register no other way than by mail. Any direction respecting their bundles and the places of having them left, for

stages or coasters, shall be faithfully attended to. And in respect to the Registers which shall continue to be sent by mail, we shall be under a necessity of being one or two weeks in getting them out, and this sooner or later, according as there may be room for receiving them in the mails; so that those of our agents and subscribers who are depending for them in this way, are not to be disappointed, if they do not receive the Register the first or second week of its publication. We shall endeavor, however, in all instances, to be so far in season, that each number shall be received before another becomes due. Numbers which have been or shall be miscarried and lost, as is sometimes the case, may be ordered again at a convenient opportunity, and shall be supplied anew.

### *Bill of Mortality.*

We must be allowed to express our regret, in not having been more generally favored with the attention of gentlemen of the clergy, in furnishing us with the materials for a *Bill of Mortality*, where they have it in their power. Something short of twenty is

the number of returns which have been received. We shall delay making any use of these at present, hoping still that other gentlemen, from considerations of public utility, will be induced yet to comply with our solicitations.

### *To Correspondents.*

The parody by "*A Youth*," possesses ingenuity, but as we apprehend it might by some be thought to carry reflections different from the meaning and intention of the author, we hope we shall be excused in not giving it a place.—A communication from the Rev. T.

FLINT, on the subject of improving meadow lands, was received too late for this number; it shall appear in our next.—Also, our Fitchburg correspondent is thanked for his attention; his communication, however, is necessarily deferred to the next number.

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### CONDITIONS OF THE REGISTER.

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CONDUCTED BY DANIEL ADAMS, M. B.

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